

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action dated January 28, 2004, Applicant has amended the abstract as indicated above to remove legal phraseology and superfluous language. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the abstract be removed.

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 are currently pending in this patent application. Claims 1-6, 8 and 10 remain unamended and are allowed. Claim 7 has been canceled, and claim 9 has been amended. New claim 11 has been added, and it depends from claim 9.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eisen. Claim 7 has been canceled.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for the term “the selection logic module” lacking antecedent basis. Claim 9 was also objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of now canceled independent claim 7 from which it formerly depended. Claim 9 now includes the limitation a selection logic module communicatively coupled with each data path and including logic circuits configured to determine whether to select the possible result from the short path or the possible result from the long path as a result of a floating-point operation; to which the subsequent term “the selection logic module” refers back so that the antecedent basis is established. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 be removed.

New claim 11 depends from claim 9 which has now been placed in independent allowable form. Therefore, claim 11 is in allowable form. Furthermore, claim 11 includes the additional limitation that “the long path includes means for rounding a possible subtraction result from the long path before this possible subtraction result is forwarded to the result selection

module.” This additional limitation is also not disclosed, taught or suggested by Eisen in which the NEAR and FAR data paths use a common rounder after one of their results has been selected by MUX 180. (See Eisen, 5: 14-21.)

Applicant respectfully submits that currently pending claims 1-6, 8, 9 as amended, and 10-11 are in allowable form. Therefore, Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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